

REMARKS

The Office Action of May 26, 2004 has been carefully studied.

It is noted that item 10 of the Office Action Summary is not checked. Enclosed is a copy of Applicant's drawing which was presumably filed and which is also incorporated in the Abstract. The drawing has been corrected in the direction of the arrow for line 3. The correction is obvious from page 4, lines 1-3, of the disclosure. It would be appreciated if the Examiner investigated the file to determine whether the drawing is of record in the National Phase and advise Applicant accordingly as soon as possible. It is a certainty, in any case, that the drawing is of record in the application as a whole inasmuch as the PCT application and WO publication shows the drawings.

Referring now to the contents of the detailed Office Action, the following paragraphs correspond thereto.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 112

With respect to the original limitation "the dosing means" in claim 7, it is to be noted that this claim depends on claim 6 which contains the expression "dosing means". In any case, it is seen that "dosing means" is changed for purposes of clarity to "a means for dosing to said gaseous fuel oil or an oil mixture". Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully urged.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 1 is now amended so that it is in accordance with Applicant's specification, third paragraph from the bottom, which states as follows:

"The high feed pressure that would be necessary argues against feeding in the additive beyond the compressor station."

Claim 1 is now amended so as to incorporate the substance of the above paragraph by indicating that the oil mixture is added to the fuel upstream of the temporary storage. New claims 12 and 14 are more specific by requiring that the oil or oil mixture is added before the fuel is compressed (claim 12) or between two compressor stages (claim 14).

By virtue of the amendment to claim 1, it is clear that the cited Scogin patent U.S. 5,769,058 is not a proper reference under either 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or under 35 U.S.C. 103 inasmuch as there is no motivation to alter this patent by changing the mode of introducing the oil or oil mixture into the gaseous fuel.

As for the cited Kray reference used to support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 against claim 3, it is apparent that this reference is not suggestive of Applicant's presently claimed invention in view of the amendments to claim 1 as well as the newly added claims.

With respect to Applicant's apparatus claims, it is seen that they are also amended in the same manner as claim 1 so as to make it clear that the dosing means are upstream of the high pressure storage means.

With respect to the teachings of Scogin, it is clear that the oil is injected directly into the intake manifold of the engine, rather than upstream of any storage means or prior to the compressor or in between two compressor stages. In contra distinction, Applicant does not pass the oil or oil mixture directly into the engine, but rather well beforehand so as to obtain an even distribution of the oil in the fuel on the one hand and to permit a precise amount of the oil to be added to the fuel.

With respect to the newly added claims, they are all discussed above except for claims 9-11 and 13. Claims 9-11 are based on the drawing which shows multiple storage tanks as part of the storage means, and this concept is not shown in Scogin. Likewise, claim 13 is not disclosed or suggested in Scogin since this claim requires the fuel to be a natural gas having a content of 40-60 ppm mol of said oil or oil mixture before the fuel is compressed since claim 13 depends on claim 12. Support for claim 13 is found on page 4, line 3.

In the absence of a more pertinent reference, it appears that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration is courteously requested. Finally, if there are any remaining issues which can be expeditiously resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone Counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


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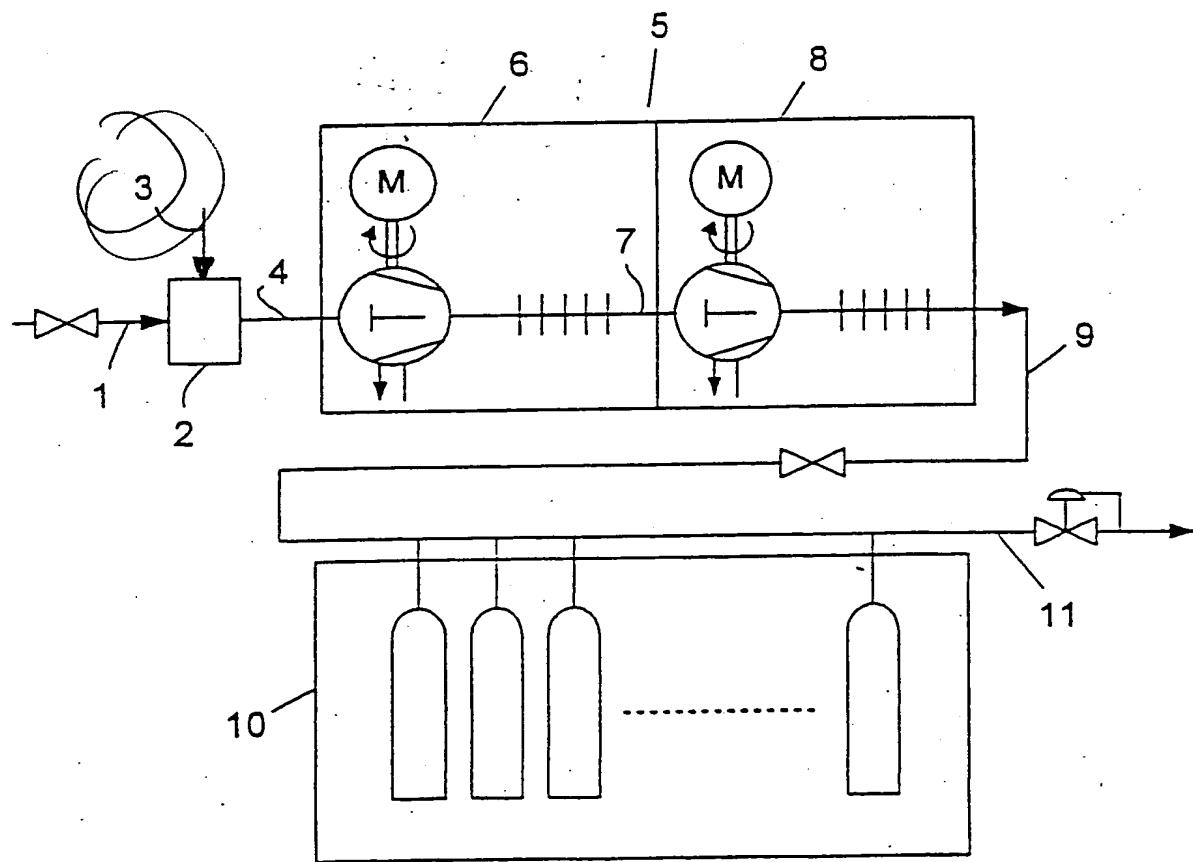
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